

**From:** Ritchey, Gail (COT)

**Sent:** Thursday, November 13, 2008 4:14 PM

**To:** COT Constitutional CIO Security Contacts; COT Cabinet CIO Security Contacts; CTC Members

**Cc:** COT Exchange Administrators; COT Security Alert Contacts; COT Security Contact COT-Support; COT Security Contact Pass; COT Security Contact Self-Support; COT Technical Contacts; SecurityContacts Group

**Subject:** COT Security Alert - Fraudulent Amber Alert Email

## **COT Security Alert – Fraudulent Amber Alert Email**

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The COT Security Administration has become aware of a fraudulent email that may appear in state government Inboxes. The email claims to be an AMBER alert, but does not have information common to AMBER alerts such as how long the child is missing and contact information for local police authorities. In addition, the email address link included in the email is also not official or legitimate. Forwarding hoax emails such as this has a potential to damage the genuine AMBER Alert system by desensitizing the public to the alerts,

Users should always consider unexpected emails and attachments as suspect, even those that appear to come from legitimate sources. Spam emails containing malicious code are often designed to involve users in their spread by appealing to human emotion. Forwarding these emails is considered improper use of state resources.

NOTICE: COT is providing this information so that you are aware of the latest security threats, vulnerabilities, software patches, etc. You should consult with your network administrator or other technical resources to ensure that the appropriate actions for these alerts are followed. If you are a network administrator and need additional information, please call the Help Desk at 502.564.7576.

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